

ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

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524 South Second Street, Springfield 62701-1787

George H. Ryan, Governor • Brent Manning, Director

ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSULTATION PROGRAM
AGENCY ACTION REPORT

Date Submitted: July 26, 2001
Is this a Resubmittal? [Yes]
If 'Yes', enter PROJCODE: 6709

PROJCODE: 0105093

Date Due: 9-13-01

For Office Use Only

Agency Name: Illinois Department of Transportation
Contact Person: Cassandra Rodgers
Agency Address: 819 Depot Avenue
Dixon, IL 61021

Phone: (815) 284-5455

E-mail: rodgerscs@nt.dot.state.il.us

DESCRIBE PRECISE LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTION

Project Name: Milan Beltway Extension: John Deere Expressway to Airport Road, FAU 5822; Sec. 1-3; P-92-096-84

County(ies): Rock Island

City/Town: Rock Island and Milan

Township/Range/Section: T17N, R1E, Sec. 7, 18, & 19

U.S.G.S. Quad Map Name(s): Milan

Brief Description of the Proposed Action: Construction of a 4-lane freeway on new alignment.

Please enclose a map delineating the location of the proposed action, and return to Dr. Deanna Glosser at the SPRINGFIELD address above.

FOR NATURAL RESOURCE REVIEW & COORDINATION USE ONLY

QUADCODE(S): _____

Are there threatened/endangered species or natural areas located within the vicinity of the project? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Is the proposed project likely to adversely affect the threatened/endangered species or INAI sites? ☐ Yes ☒ No

The consultation process is terminated? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If 'No', complete the enclosed Detailed Agency Action Report to continue the consultation process.

Comments: wetlands present No new resources occurrence
Previous commitments to be implemented

Evaluation Approved by:

Steve Wamer
Deanna Glosser, Ph.D.
Chief, Div. of Natural Resource Review & Coordination

8-06-01
Date

Meeting Dates – Public Meetings and Individual Property Owner Meetings

July 19, 1984

Ralph Wehner – District Engineer-met with the Mayor of Moline, Mayor of Rock Island, Chairman of the RI County Board, Bi-State MPO and the Planning and Development Director of Moline.

First discussions regarding the project in general and funding issues.

Public Awareness Open House – Sept. 19, 1985

Sixty-six property owners attended the public meeting. Nearly all affected owners attended and identified themselves. Rep. Brunsvold, Mayor of Rock Island, Bi-State Planning Commission, Rock Island County Highway Superintendent also attended. Some were concerned about potential flooding because of a new bridge.

January 31, 1986

Meeting with Bi-State MPO and Consultant to discuss pros and cons of the project.

January 31, 1986

Meeting with Rock Island Community Development Director and Urban Planner to discuss proposed project from the viewpoint of the City of Rock Island.

January 31, 1986

Meeting with Milan Village Administrator to discuss proposed project from the viewpoint of the Village of Milan.

February 5, 1986

Meeting with the Director of Planning and Development from Moline to discuss proposed project from the viewpoint of the City of Moline.

October 21, 1986

Meeting with Black Hawk State Park to discuss potential environmental impacts.

April 10, 1987

Discussed plans for future airport expansion and future highway expansion.

March 29, 1988

Public Informational Open House held to obtain input concerning the MBE project. A large number of people were interested in the bridge design and they felt that the proposed bridge would not increase flooding on the Rock River.

April 19, 1988

An Intergovernmental Coordination Meeting was held to present design features of the proposed MBE project. Seventeen people were in attendance.

December 14, 1990

IDOT staff and representatives of the United Medical Centers and their engineering firm met regarding property in the southwest quadrant at John Deere Road and the MBE.

April 24, 1991

A Public Informational Open House was held to obtain input from the public regarding the proposed project. There were no requests for a Public Hearing.

May, 1991

Department staff met with the Vice Pres. Of the United Medical Center regarding the proposed improvements. They feel that the MBE project will have a positive impact on the new site for the Trinity Medical Center.

October 25, 1991

Meeting was held with the Quad City Airport to obtain comments and concerns that the airport had. Discussed access, traffic signals proposed right-of-way, the interchange size, location and design.

October 30, 1991

A meeting was held with Bi-State MPO to obtain updated date, document comments and concerns.

November 15, 1991

Met with Rock Island City Planner to obtain comments and concerns that the City may have regarding the project.

November 15, 1991

Met with the Planning Director and Planning Staff of Moline, IL to discuss and give a status of the project.

November 15, 1991

Met with the Milani Village Administrator to discuss the changes and provide a project status.

October 31, 1996

IDOT staff met with John Phillips, City Manager for the City of Rock Island to discuss access near the proposed 52nd Avenue/MBE interchange.

February 20, 1997

Met with the Village of Milan, IL Geologic Survey, IL Natural History Service to review the proposed Wetland designs.

December 9, 1997

IDOT staff met with and made a presentation before the Public Works Committee of Moline to discuss options for the proposed interchange.

April 27, 1998

IDOT was invited to attend a meeting held by the Rock Island City Council to discuss options for the MBE regarding Velie Drive.

June 28, 1999

IDOT staff met with Mr. Logan of Sonic Research Corporation to discuss proposed impacts to his business located on 3rd Street.

August 9, 1999

John Wegmeyer (IDOT) met with people from Ruhl and Ruhl Real Estate in Moline to discuss proposed impacts to property along the MBE.

August 14, 1999

Mr. Jon Estrem (IDOT) and Deana Hermes (IDOT) met with Dave Arnold from Auto Acres Used Parts, Inc. to discuss the proposed impacts to his business along Airport Road.

September 17, 1999

Mr. Kevin Marchek and Deana Hermes met with Dave Arnold of Auto Acres and Jim Flannery of The Forest of Flowers located on the south side of Airport Road next to The Acri Company. Both were interested in the impacts to their businesses.

May 18, 2000

Met with the business owners that may be impacted by the 44th Street connector road.

August 8, 2001

Met with Dr. Leinfelder and Dr. Kenney to discuss the potential impacts due to the proposed improvements.

August, 2001

Met with the Quad City Metro Link to obtain any information regarding potential concerns due to the MBE.



Illinois Department of Transportation

Division of Highways / District 2
819 Depot Avenue / Dixon, Illinois / 61021-3500
Telephone 815/284-2271

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT
Studies and Plans
Environment

FAU Route 5822
Section 1-3
Milan Beltway Extension
Rock Island County
Job No. P-92-096-84

January 23, 2003

Mr. Steve Frank, Chief
Bureau of Land and Water Resources
Illinois Department of Agriculture
State Fairgrounds
P.O. Box 19281
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9281

Attn: Jim Hartwig

Dear Mr. Frank:

This letter is being written in response to your questions about the Draft EIS for the Milan Beltway Extension in Rock Island County. Your questions were in regards to our proposed wetland mitigation site referred to as the Green Rock Site. Following are the answers to questions 1 through 5 on your questionnaire:

- 1) IDOT proposes to acquire a total of 86.22 acres at the Green Rock Site.
- 2) 41.26 acres will be converted to wetlands as required for part of the project mitigation.
- 3) The entire acreage of these two agricultural fields will be purchased, since the proposed mitigation will make the remaining 30.40 acres difficult to farm. Most of this remaining 30.40 acres will be seeded for erosion control and reserved for a future mitigation site. Reserving this land for future mitigation for projects in the 5 year program will eliminate having to purchase additional parcels elsewhere. There is an area in this field containing a large advertising billboard. This portion of the field will remain unused as it is today. The existing areas with trees will be preserved as a buffer.

An additional 14.58 acres of this property located north of the mitigation site and south of the Green River will be purchased since this parcel will become landlocked. This parcel is an existing forested wetland and will be preserved as such.

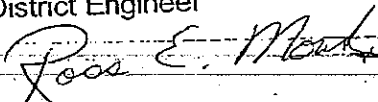
- 4)
 - a) The mitigation site is agricultural fields – total 71.64 acres.
 - b) The land north of the mitigation site is forested wetland – total 14.58 acres.
 - c) The land west of the site is owned by IDOT and is floodplain forest and wet meadow along the Rock River.
 - d) The land to the south of the site is I-280/I-74 owned by IDOT.
 - e) The land to the east of the site is agricultural fields.
- 5) This proposed mitigation site is located a distance of less than 1.5 miles from two towns in the Quad City area. These towns are Colona (formerly Colona and Green Rock) and Coal Valley (see attached map). According to Gena McCullough, Bi-State Planning Coordinator, both Colona and Coal Valley have an officially adopted comprehensive land use plan.

Therefore, this mitigation site is also exempt from the IDA's need to prepare a Study of Agricultural Impacts per Section 2d of the IDA-IDOT Cooperative Working Agreement on the protection of Illinois farmland. The District feels that this site is also consistent with the IDOT's Agricultural Land Preservation Policy and the States Farmland Preservation Act (505 ILCS 75/1 et seq.).

If you have any questions, please call Cassandra Rodgers, Ph.D. in District 2 at (815)284-5455.

Sincerely,

Gregory L. Mounts
District Engineer


By: Ross E. Monk
Engineer of Program Development

Attachments
env/cr-291/pk



Illinois Department of Agriculture

George H. Ryan, Governor

Bureau of Land and Water Resources

State Fairgrounds • P.O. Box 19281 • Springfield, IL 62794-9281 • 217/782-6297 • TDD 217/524-6858 • Fax 217/557-0993

December 9, 2002

Mr. Roger Rocke, District Engineer
Illinois Department of Transportation
Division of Highways/District 2
819 Depot Avenue
Dixon, Illinois 61021-3546

Re: FAU Route 5822
Section 1-3
Milan Beltway Extension
Rock Island County

RECEIVED DISTRICT 2	DEC 11 2002
	DISTRICT 2 ALL BUREAUS
	CONFER WITH DISTRICT ENGINEER
	PREPARE CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE DES SIGNATURE
	PREPARE CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE IDOT SIGNATURE
	FILED
	RECEIVED
	DATE
	TIME
	BY

Dear Mr. Rocke:

The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDA) has reviewed the agricultural impacts associated with the proposed construction of the Milan Beltway Extension in Rock Island County. We submit the following comments.

According to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) that was prepared for the project, the new highway will provide a 4-lane controlled access expressway connecting the Milan Beltway (at its present terminus at Airport Road) to the John Deere Expressway, a distance of approximately 2.0 miles. ~~The IDOT proposes to acquire 134.4 acres of agricultural land to construct the project and mitigate its environmental impacts.~~ Approximately half of this land is currently being farmed.

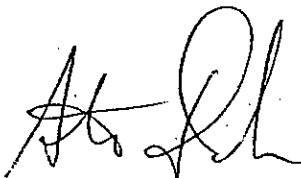
The majority of the land that IDOT proposes to acquire for new highway right-of-way and for environmental impact mitigation is located within the 1½ mile planning area of the Rock Island and Moline comprehensive land use plan. This portion of the project is exempt from the IDA's need to prepare a Study of Agricultural Impacts per Section 2.d of the IDA-IDOT Cooperative Working Agreement on the protection of Illinois farmland. Since this portion of the project is exempt, the IDA finds it to be consistent with the IDOT's Agricultural Land Preservation Policy and with the state's Farmland Preservation Act (505 ILCS 75/1 et seq.).

One of the sites selected for mitigating the project's wetland impacts may not be exempt from the IDA's need to prepare a Study of Agricultural Impacts. The Green Rock site is located eight miles east of the project in Henry County. The IDOT proposes to convert 41.3 acres of Prime farmland at this site to wetlands. Please provide the information on the enclosure with this letter so the IDA can determine the site's compliance with the IDOT's Agricultural Land Preservation Policy and with the intent of the state's Farmland Preservation Act.

Mr. Roche
Page 2
December 9, 2002

Should you have any question concerning our review of this project or our comments contained herein, please contact Jim Hartwig of my staff at 217-785-4470.

Sincerely,



Steve Frank, Chief
Bureau of Land and Water Resources

SF:JH

Enclosure

cc: Michael McCutchan, Rock Island County SWCD
Lois Wall, Henry County SWCD
Kevin Rund, Illinois Farm Bureau
Agency Project File

**Information Needed by the Illinois Department of Agriculture
On The
Green Rock Wetland Mitigation Site
FAU Route 5822
Section 1-3
Milan Beltway Extension
Rock Island County**

Please provide the following information on the Green Rock Wetland Mitigation Site for the Illinois Department of Agriculture's review per the IDA-IDOT Cooperative Working Agreement on the protection of Illinois farmland.

1. Total acres in the site that the IDOT proposes to acquire.
2. Acres that will be converted to wetlands.
3. If land will be acquired in excess of that which is needed for wetland mitigation purposes, what will be done with the excess land?
4. Please indicate the acreage of each land use on the site and what are the adjacent land uses?
5. Is the site located within the 1½ mile planning area of Green Rock's comprehensive land use plan? Please indicate if Green Rock has an officially adopted comprehensive land use plan. *(Note: the IDA will need no further information if the site meets this exemption. If not, please continue. The information requested is for both the IDA's Study of Agricultural Impacts and for completing the USDA's AD-1006 form.)*
6. Is the site protected by agricultural/other levees?
7. What is the flooding frequency of the site and what is the duration of the flooding events?
8. What is the mitigation ratio that is being used at this site since it is an off-site location?
9. Why is it necessary to select a mitigation site that is so far from the impacted wetlands?
10. Were alternative sites considered that were located on less productive farmland? If so, please explain.
11. How is the site zoned and how is the land adjacent to the site zoned?

12. How is the site planned by Green Rock and/or Henry County?
13. How far is the site from Green Rock's corporate boundaries?
14. How far is the site from the nearest central water system?
15. How far is the site from the nearest central waste disposal system?
16. What type of road provides access to the site (choose one – earthen, aggregate, oil and chip, or hard surface)?
17. Any other information you feel is relevant to the IDA's Study of Agricultural Impacts.